THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) At present, there is no LPG Bottling Plant in Bellary District.

(b) The total requirement of LPG of the registered consumers of Public Sector Oil Companies in Bellary District is about 600 MT per month.

(c) to (e) Under 9th Plan, two LPG Bottling plants have been planned at Bangalore and Dharwad in Karnataka by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has a plan to set up a 10 TMTPA bottling capacity plant at Bellary during 9th Plan and identification of suitable land for plant is in progress.

Adulteration of Diesel

4995. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rampant adulteration of diesel has been reported; and

(b) if so the steps taken to reduce the price of different between kerosene and diesel to discourage adulteration of diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government have received complaints regarding adulteration of diesel. Oil Marketing Companies carry our regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to prevent various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (Public Distribution System), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

(b) From 23.3.2000, Government have increased the ex storage point price of PDS kerosene from Rs. 2.00/ litre to 4.50/litre.

Methane Gas Reserves in Jharkhand

†4996. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is huge reserve of coal bed methane gas in the coal areas of Hazaribagh and Dhanbad of Jharkhand region;

(b) if so, the details of this huge reserve according to the datas received so far;

(c) whether Government are going to set up coal bed methane project on the basis of this huge methane gas reserve in Jharkhand region in public or private sector;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Preliminary studies and R & D activities undertaken by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have indicated the presence of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Hazaribagh and Dhanbad areas of Bihar.

Government has approved policy for exploration and exploitation of CBM in the country, which provides for global competitive bidding. The preparation for invitation of bids in accordance with CBM policy has not been completed. The CBM reserve base can be known only after exploration and commercial viability of utilisation of such reserves can be established thereafter.

Difference in the growth rate of various States

†4997. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the average annual growth rate achieved by different States during the nineties in the country;

(b) if so, State-wise annual growth rate;

(c) whether this rate is in conformity with the recently issue report of the World Bank with regard to the growth achieved by the States in the country;

(d) if not, the names of the States where both the reports differ; and

(e) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.